(d) what was the action taken by the Department thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amendments relate to re-categorisation of flats on the basis of living area and the alteration of the rule of eligibility for allotment of category 'D' accommodation on the basis of pay seniority from service seniority hitherto. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has its own rules for allotment of accommodation. The Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD) follows the concept of plinth area for construciton of quarters and living area for recovery of licence fee. In March 1995, the Department categorised flats on the basis of living area. In the matter of allotment of category 'D' falts MOUD follows service seniority but the Department found it necessary to deviate from this and adopt pay seniority as the criterion for allotment.

(c) and (d) Representations were received from both the Officers Association and Staff Unions. There were hunger strikes and demonstrations by a section of employees. In order to find an amicable solution the Department kept the order of 29th March, 1995 in abeyance and appointed a Committee of Officers to hear representations and to make recommendations. On the basis of the recommendations of this Committee the Department has issued revised orders re-categorising flats on the basis of a combination of plinth and living area and revising the rule for allotment of 'D' seniority and pay seniority.

Upgradation of Group C Posts of Research Assistants

1791. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to upgrade the Group C posts of Research Assistants in various disciplines in the Central Councils for Research and Ayurveda and Siddha to Group B posts with the pay Scale of Rs. 2000-3500, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the decision was taken after the approval of the respective Governing Body of the Council; and

(c) the reasons for which similar benefit has been denied to Research Assistants in the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Yoga and naturpathy and Homoepathy?

(d) THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

The posts of Research Assistants (Ay-..Siddha) with prescribed qualification of Degree in the respective system of medicine may be upgraded to that of Assistant Research Officer in the pay scale of Rs. 2000-3500. Similarly, the posts of Research Assistant in other disciplines for which the prescribed qualification is M.Sc. with 3 years or more experience may be upgraded to the scale of Rs. 2000-3500.

(b) The decision was taken with the approval of the Vice-President of the Governing Body of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha.

(c) Similar proposals for upgradation of the posts of Research Assistant to that of Assistant Research Officer in the other Central Councils is under the consideration of the Government.